United Nations A/56/134

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 July 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Item 112 (b) of the preliminary list*
Operational activities for development: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 54/227 of 22 December 1999, the General Assembly, inter alia, expressed its appreciation to the international community for the financial, technical and material support to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and called upon Member States and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that had not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to explore the possibility of doing so. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of SADC, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community and to report to it at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale dated 19 April 2001 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations requesting information on specific measures undertaken in implementation of the resolution. He also dispatched letters dated 19 April 2001 to the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations requesting them to submit their contributions for the preparation of his report.

3. The present report is based on the information received from Member States and United Nations organizations and bodies as at 15 June 2001. Any further replies received will be incorporated in an addendum to the report.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

A. Action taken by Member States

1. Australia

4. During the current reporting period, Australian development assistance was particularly focused on projects in South Africa and Mozambique, as well as in other SADC countries. During 2001, Australian assistance to African countries will total about $A 38 million, of which about $A 34 million will go to SADC countries. Types of aid include educational scholarships, capacity-building projects and assistance in the sectors of water and sanitation, food security and HIV/AIDS. Arrangements are being finalized for the

* A/56/50.

01-44030 (E) 310701

Southern African Newcastle Disease Project for poultry protection, to be implemented in Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania over a three-year period at a cost of $A 5 million.

2. Canada

5. Canada's development assistance to the SADC region is directed at supporting coherent national development strategies aimed at poverty reduction, democratic development, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and mine action.

6. In the area of good governance, Canada supports projects aimed at enhancing human rights and democratization, electoral assistance and the development of civil society. In Malawi, it is assisting in developing capacity in the national budgetary process and improvement in the investment climate. In Zambia, support is being provided to the Central Statistics Office through a long-term census adviser and the provision of census equipment. In Zimbabwe, a project to increase the capacity of the Legal Resources Foundation in legal services delivery, public advocacy and human rights education is ongoing. Another project is aimed at increasing the technical and institutional capacity of the Judicial College in the areas of land reform, role of the police and the media, race relations, gender equality and legal issues related to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In South Africa, policy support and senior public service training in macroeconomics, education and public administration is being implemented through linkage mechanisms between six Canadian and six South African provinces. Short-term exchanges of personnel and training for the establishment of legal precedents under the Charter of Rights and training in constitutional litigation as well as capacity-building in the judiciary and court systems is under way through a linkage project between the justice departments of the two countries. Approximately Can$ 47.2 million has been allocated for these projects for the period from 1996 to 2006.

7. Canada's official development assistance to the SADC region promotes women's participation in political, economic and social decision-making through the inclusion of mandatory gender analysis for all project planning and the implementation of bilateral gender equality projects aimed at strengthening the capacity of government and civil society to mainstream gender equality in their policies and programmes. Projects aimed at increasing women's access to primary education and for agricultural training are being implemented in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, for which some Can$ 13 million has been allocated for the period from 1996 to 2006.

8. Under the Southern Africa AIDS Training Programme Phase II project in Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, community-based organizations are being assisted in HIV prevention, community-based AIDS mitigation and related human rights advocacy. Additional projects are being implemented in Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, for which a total of almost Can$ 53 million has been mandated.

9. Canada is the leading donor supporting Mozambique's mine action programme and is co-chair with the Government of the De-mining Task Force. It has contributed almost Can$ 10.46 million towards a national level impact survey, the production of digitized maps, providing mine action specialists and building the capacity of the country's database on this problem.

3. European Union

10. The fourth SADC/European Union (EU) Ministerial Conference, held in Gaborone on 29 and 30 November 2000, reviewed ongoing cooperation between the two sides and discussed future priorities, including support for democratic institutions and the promotion of human rights through: logistical and technical assistance for electoral processes in SADC countries; cooperation to combat crime; drug trafficking and the illegal trade of small arms; support for regional integration; technical assistance for the establishment of an SADC free trade zone; and support and assistance to small and medium enterprises.

11. The Conference welcomed the signing of the new African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States/ European Community Agreement in Cotonou, in June 2000, which will support regional integration, as well as the decision to allocate 1 billion euros from the European Development Fund for debt relief within the framework of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative. The Conference also welcomed the recent decision by the European Commission to finance the SADC-European Union programme on HIV/AIDS.

12. The SADC African Regional Action Programme against illicit trafficking in conventional arms and the

European Union-SADC Joint Working Group on Small Arms, endorsed by the Vienna ministerial meeting, were set up in 1998 to identify relevant projects. At the European Union-SADC Working Group meeting in April 2001, the Group's role as facilitator and provider of strategic supervision was further clarified.

13. Individual member States of the European Union and the European Commission have made funds and other forms of assistance available to the SADC and its member States. Information on those contributions is given below.

4. Austria

14. Austria's regional assistance to SADC and bilateral assistance to individual SADC member States was approximately 16.09 million euros in 1999 and 11.46 million euros in 2000.

5. Belgium

15. Belgium's regional assistance to SADC and bilateral assistance to individual member States amounted to over 53.3 million euros in 1999 and 60.58 million euros in 2000.

6. Denmark

16. Danish support during the 1998 to 2000 reporting period amounted to Danish kroner (DKr) 213 million, is expected to amount to DKr 75 million in 2001 and is targeted towards: (a) conflict management and building peacekeeping capacity; (b) democracy and human rights; and (c) building capacity of the financial sector. Denmark plans to support the restructuring process of the SADC secretariat as well.

7. Finland

17. Finnish official development assistance to SADC and its member States was approximately 43 million euros in 1999 and 44.75 million euros in 2000.

8. France

18. French technical assistance (not including humanitarian emergency help, special projects and debt management) to the SADC in 2001 was: French francs (FF) 4,258 million. Assistance to SADC member States was approximately FF 138 million.

9. Germany

19. German assistance to SADC member States amounted to 278 million deutsche mark (DM) in 1999 and almost DM 279 million in 2000. Assistance to the SADC regional projects amounted to DM 15 million in 1999 and DM 16 million in 2000.

10. Ireland

20. Ireland's assistance to SADC member States amounted to 41,129 million euros in 1999 and 55,262 million euros in 2000.

11. Italy

21. In the period between 1998 and 2001 the disbursement of official development assistance to SADC member States amounted to 147.16 million euros.

12. Netherlands

22. The Netherlands assistance to SADC member States was 186 million euros for 1999 and 286 million euros for 2000.

13. Portugal

23. In 1999, bilateral official development assistance to SADC member States amounted US$ 72.65 million, mainly to Angola (US$ 19.78 million) and Mozambique (US$ 52.65 million). In 2000, bilateral official development assistance amounted US$ 44.69 million. Again, the main beneficiaries were Angola (US$ 12.74 million) and Mozambique (US$ 31.62 million).

14. Spain

24. Spain's official development assistance to Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania amounted to 2 billion 190 million pesetas in 1999 and 3 billion 660 million pesetas in 2000. In addition, regional administrations and communities also assisted in project implementation.

15. Sweden

25. In the period between 1999 and 2000 the disbursement of the Swedish official development cooperation to SADC and SADC member States

amounted to 201.9 million euros in 1999 and 243.3 million euros in 2000.

16. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

26. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland extended a total of 260.5 million pounds sterling (£) in bilateral development assistance to SADC countries and £2.13 million to SADC itself during the period from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001. The United Kingdom also provided £2.3 million for military training in the SADC region.

Assistance by the Commission of the European Union to individual Member States of the Southern African Development Community

27. Under the most recent Regional Indicative Programme, signed in October 1996, the European Commission and the SADC secretariat agreed on the following priority areas for the allocation of 121 million euros over a period of five years: infrastructure; services and trade, and investment and finance, including an important capacity-building component within the region.

28. Since the Secretary-General's previous report of 24 August 1999 (A/54/273), the European Commission has financed a number of projects directly with the SADC secretariat, including an SADC Regional Drug Control Programme (4 million euros), a European Union-SADC Investment Promotion Programme (18,325 million euros), rehabilitation of the Mpulungu (Zambia) harbour (3 million euros), the SADC Land and Water Management Research Programme (4.85 million euros), regional capacity-building support to SADC (15,615 million euros), regional support for an expanded multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS (7,614 million euros), and support for a meteorological transition programme in SADC countries (2 million euros). A number of smaller projects have also been funded with non-governmental organizations to support initiatives on governance and other issues within the SADC region. This assistance, allocated at a regional level, has been complemented by assistance to individual SADC member States.

17. Japan

29. The Tokyo Agenda for Action, adopted at the Second Tokyo Conference on African Development, held from 19 to 21 October 1998, reaffirmed the importance Japan accords to its cooperation with SADC and its member countries. During the current reporting period, Japan contributed US$ 817,000 in financial assistance to the SADC secretariat and provided four experts as advisers to strengthen its capacity in programme planning and management. During the past year, Japan held two consultative meetings with SADC, at which it expressed its support for the Organization's reform efforts and the role it could play in promoting South-South cooperation and in Africa's development. An SADC investment seminar was held in Tokyo on 25 May 2000, in cooperation with the Southern Africa Trade Association and UNIDO, to promote Japanese private investment in SADC countries. In 1999 Japan's official development assistance to SADC countries amounted to US$ 381 million in support of regional integration, construction of roads and bridges and improvement of infrastructure.

18. Norway

30. Norway's allocation for projects implemented in cooperation with the SADC amounted to 42 million Norwegian kroner (NKr) in 2000 and NKr 45 million in 2001. Economic development management and natural resource development sectors are accorded priority, enabling regional countries to invest and enhance capacity in transport, energy and private sector development. Norway has supported a number of projects on environmental issues for which responsibility is to be transferred from SADC to nationally based units for coordination. Talks are presently under way with the SADC secretariat regarding support for its restructuring process.

31. In support of the priority placed on social sector development by the SADC countries, Norway's financial assistance is enabling the region to formalize the process, leading to a regional agreement on cooperation in training and education. Norway is supporting activities in the field of human rights and democratization through projects for developing a free and independent media and ensuring legal rights for women as well as the development of social services and increasing the human resources capacity of SADC countries. Furthermore, it has supported a project to enhance regional capacity in conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

32. Since 1995, the Norwegian Government has allocated some NKr 18 million for a joint project implemented by the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs and two South African institutes, (Institute for Strategic Studies and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes) on regional capacity-building in peacekeeping. The project was recently extended for another five years with an estimated budget of NKr 30 million.

19. Republic of Korea

33. During the period under review, the Republic of Korea has diversified and strengthened its relations with the SADC member States through the provision of financial, material and technical assistance.

34. The Republic of Korea contributed US$ 1,711,800 in 2000 and has allocated US$ 1,736,000 for 2001 for the SADC region, with an emphasis on providing education and training for students from SADC countries in human resources development, trade and investment promotion, agricultural development, economic and regional development, crime prevention and computer technology. The programmes also include training courses for public officials from the region. In addition, agricultural experts, medical doctors and volunteer workers from the Republic of Korea worked in partnership with community organizations to enhance economic and social development in several SADC countries. The Republic of Korea also assisted disaster relief activities in the region and has provided aid to several countries that suffered from floods in 2000.

20. Russian Federation

35. The Russian Federation has continued to take concrete efforts to strengthen its cooperation with SADC, both at the regional and bilateral levels. Since April 1999, the Russian Ambassador in Gaborone has been accredited to the SADC secretariat as well.

36. The Russian Federation is actively complying with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/227, aimed at promoting the peace process in Angola, which would promote the stabilization of the political, military, social, economic and humanitarian situation in that country and in the region as a whole. The Russian Federation underlines the need to strictly implement the respective United Nations Security Council resolutions on Angola, first and foremost those bearing on the UNITA sanctions regime. Being a permanent member of the Security Council and a member of the "troika" of observer States to the peace process in Angola, the Russian Federation is doing everything in its power to achieve an early settlement of the conflict in that country.

37. Similarly, the Russian position favouring the early political settlement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the basis of the Lusaka Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions remains unchanged. Both at the level of the Security Council, where, with other Council members, it takes active steps in the search for an effective solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as in contacts with the countries of the region and other interested States, the Russian Federation stands for constructive and full-scale cooperation between the Congolese and other parties to the conflict and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for the effective implementation of the mandate of the Mission, the observance of the agreed plan of disengagement and in support of the peace process.

21. United States of America

38. Since 1999, the United States has continued its cooperative engagement within the SADC region. The second United States-SADC Forum was held in Maputo in May 2000, at which senior United States and SADC leaders reaffirmed their commitment to partnership on issues of mutual interest. The Forum addressed ways to support regional economic integration and expand trade and investment; counter transnational threats such as narcotics and small arms; develop a harmonized HIV/AIDS policy; strengthen SADC's ability to address regional threats; and establish a regional disaster management mechanism. In 1999 and 2000, the United States allocated US$ 3 million to carry out cooperative projects agreed to at the Forums in May 1999 and 2000. These included projects on environmental management, disaster preparedness, conflict resolution, protection of intellectual property rights, HIV/AIDS, implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol and improving the operation of land border crossing posts. In November 2000, the United States and SADC issued a joint declaration calling on States Members of the United

Nations to exercise restraint in arms sales to areas in conflict in Africa.

39. Cooperative projects related to Forum initiatives were in addition to the extensive technical assistance administered through USAID's Regional Centre for Southern Africa in Gaborone. Technical assistance to the Centre, which totalled US$ 22.4 million in 2000, focused on four main areas: (a) strengthening democracy and governance in the areas of anti-corruption, civil society and election monitoring through support to regional non-governmental organizations; (b) regional market integration, by assisting SADC in implementing its Trade Protocol; (c) strengthening transboundary natural resource management in the areas of water and wildlife; (d) fostering expanded commercial markets for agricultural products and technologies; and (e) assisting regional policy makers in identifying a regional policy research agenda and assisting institutions in conducting research and analysis for that agenda. The United States also carries out extensive bilateral development assistance programmes with individual SADC member States.

B. Action taken by the United Nations system

1. Department for Disarmament Affairs

40. Over the last year, and in the context of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held at Headquarters from 9 to 20 July 2001, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has consulted with SADC, with a view to establishing an appropriate framework of cooperation between the two organizations in disarmament-related issues. Such cooperation will take into account the outcome and recommendations of the Conference and will cover the following areas: the establishment of regional transparency mechanisms with respect to small arms and light weapons holdings and transfers, including databases for information sharing; the social reintegration of ex-combatants and the implementation of weapons collection projects; the provision of specialized disarmament training to government officials in the region; and assistance in the mobilization of financial and technical resources to implement the above activities.

2. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

41. Under its technical cooperation programme, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs supports field projects in South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and Botswana. The Department is currently implementing a project on a research network for development policy analysis to provide policy makers in several SADC countries with key statistical indicators, forecasts and policy analysis on economic trends and developments. The University of Pretoria carries out the centralized training and coordination of the project aimed at enhancing the econometric modelling skills of participants.

42. Cooperation activities in the areas of population and housing census and demographic surveys have included workshops on census management, mapping and data processing. A census managers meeting was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in Pretoria from 19 to 23 March 2001 to review and evaluate census activities in the SADC region.

43. In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized an expert group meeting on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its gender implications in Windhoek from 13 to 17 November 2000, bringing together experts, government officials and NGO representatives. A report was submitted to the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held from 6 to 16 March 2001 in New York, which considered the issue of women, the girl-child and HIV/AIDS as a priority theme.

3. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

44. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to strengthen its cooperation with SADC in support of peace efforts in the subregion, including those aimed at enhancing African peacekeeping capacity. The Department participated in a number of subregional peacekeeping seminars and exercises, the most recent of which was the multinational political-military planning session organized in May 2001 in Dar es Salaam by the Tanzanian and French Governments, pursuant to the Renforcement des Capacités Africaines de Maintien de la Paix (RECAMP) initiative. A senior mission management seminar was held jointly with the SADC Regional

Peacekeeping Training Centre in September 2000 in Harare. The seminar, sponsored by Denmark, included informing the SADC member States about the planning and execution of United Nations peacekeeping missions, both at Headquarters and in the field.

45. The Department's Training and Evaluation Service has actively cooperated with both the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre and individual SADC member States through its train-the-trainers team programme. The Training and Evaluation Service provides materials for the training of military and police personnel in peace support operations and has made presentations at the Higher Command Peace Support Operations Course for senior officers and civilians from SADC, conducted in South Africa by the British Military Assistance Training Team in July 2000. It also conducted pre-deployment training for the South African National Defense Force before its deployment with MONUC.

46. In July 2000, the Training and Best Practices Units of the Department conducted the ninth United Nations training assistance team seminar for the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre, which included a comprehensive segment on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

47. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has held consultations to encourage member States of the SADC, including Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa and Swaziland, to join the United Nations standby arrangement system. Discussions on further cooperation have continued, including in Botswana, from 11 to 14 June, involving the planning conference for "Exercise Tanzanite", and in Zimbabwe with the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre on efforts to support the Centre's peacekeeping training efforts. These developments are creating wider prospects for further cooperation in the subregion with regard to peacekeeping.

4. Department of Political Affairs

48. The Executive Secretary of SADC, Prega Ramsamy, participated in the fourth high-level meeting between the United Nations and Regional Organizations, held at Headquarters on 6 and 7 February 2001. The theme of the meeting was "Cooperation for Peace-building". The discussions focused on the potential for undertaking peace-building both in a pre-conflict and a post-conflict environment, as well as ways and means to promote greater coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organs. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary-General and attended by 18 delegations from regional, subregional and other international organizations, as well as by the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General was represented by his Adviser for special assignments in Africa, Ibrahim Gambari, at the SADC Consultative Conference held in Mbabane, Swaziland, on 21 and 22 February 2000. The Department of Political Affairs continues the practice of holding consultations with the SADC delegation during the regular session of the General Assembly.

5. Department of Public Information

49. The United Nations information centres organized a range of activities to promote and publicize cooperation between the United Nations and SADC in the media, and among non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. Press conferences and seminars were organized for the launch of the Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on "Capital Flows and Growth in Africa". A photographic exhibition on peacekeeping was organized by United Nations Information Centres in Harare, and the Centre Pretoria organized media coverage for the launch of a report entitled "South Africa: Transformation for Human Development". The information centres in southern Africa, in cooperation with local officials, led a campaign against HIV/AIDS, with young people as its target audience. The campaign focused on risk awareness and greater sensitivity and understanding of AIDS patients. In its daily news programmes and current affairs magazines, United Nations Radio covered various aspects of the HIV/AIDS situation in SADC countries as well as sustainable economic development and poverty reduction.

50. The 2000 edition of the DPI reference book *Basic Facts about the United Nations* covered efforts of SADC for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Cooperation activities were also covered by the United Nations News Service on the Internet (*www.un.org/News*). The report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with SADC to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/54/273) was summarized in a press release by the Meetings

Coverage Section, as was the adoption of Assembly resolution 54/227.

6. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

51. FAO's Special Programme for Food Security, targeted at low-income food-deficit countries, is currently operational in: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. FAO is also cooperating with the SADC Vulnerability Assessment Committee and organized the SADC High-Level Consultation on Vulnerability Assessment, held in Zimbabwe from 25 to 28 September 2000. FAO also supports the Gender Biodiversity and Local Knowledge Systems, the SADC Seed Security Assistance Programme and organized the first meeting of the Southern Africa Regional Plant Protection Organization.

52. In collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), FAO continues to support the Forestry Sector Technical Cooperation Unit of SADC. It is also piloting a project on integrated support for sustainable development and food security. In addition, FAO is cooperating at the regional level with the SADC Early Warning System, the SADC Food Security Unit and its Regional Communication for Development Centre. FAO organized a training seminar on propagation and domestication of indigenous fruit trees in arid areas of eastern and southern Africa in Matopos, Zimbabwe, in May 2001, and participated in a workshop on indigenous fruit trees organized by the SADC Forestry Sector Technical Unit in Windhoek, Namibia, in March 2000.

53. FAO has launched a regional programme covering SADC member States on the preparation of drought mitigation and prevention strategies and will issue a situation analysis report towards the end of 2001 covering the Limpopo basin. In addition, FAO is implementing regional projects in SADC member States in the field of agricultural research at farm level, communication for development, agriculture development, animal health and production, farm animal genetic resources and early warning of transboundary disease transmission.

54. In January 2001, FAO conducted a training workshop programme in Lusaka for all SADC member States on the Uruguay Round and on future negotiations in agriculture, aimed at providing information on World Trade Organization (WTO) issues. The SADC/Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Multi-donor Food Security and Rural Development hub is being assisted in developing an action programme to provide assistance in phytosanitary issues and international food safety standards. Assistance is being provided to harmonize marine fisheries policy and legal frameworks within SADC coastal States, in line with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

7. International Civil Aviation Organization

55. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), through its Technical Cooperation Bureau, has provided technical support to the SADC secretariat in the search for solutions to improve the safety of air transport. Based on ICAO's audits of a number of SADC States, a subregional project proposal was prepared by ICAO and submitted to SADC to remedy safety oversight deficiencies. The project has been approved, in principle, by SADC, and fund mobilization is being pursued from SADC member States as well as from financial partners, including donors and the private sector.

8. International Labour Organization

56. The activities of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) area offices include promoting understanding of the principles of the ILO declarations, ratification and implementation of the eight fundamental conventions and ensuring better working conditions, awareness of work-related accidents, injuries and diseases and worker protection in the subregion, in conformity with international labour standards. ILO projects assisted member States in the areas of industrial relations, labour administration, collective bargaining and other labour-related issues.

9. International Monetary Fund

57. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides technical assistance and support on a region-wide basis to supplement its policy advice to individual member States. Collaboration is effected through the SADC secretariat, the Committee of Central Bank Governors and the Finance and Investment Sector Coordinating Unit.

58. Technical assistance and training by IMF has mainly been in the fields of financial sector modernization and reform, macroeconomic statistics and fiscal issues. Discussions have also taken place about the implementation of the SADC free trade area and macroeconomic policies in the region. In the financial field, IMF resident advisers in the region have delivered technical assistance on payments issues and experts on banking regulation and supervision have provided training at workshops on international best practice. To encourage the harmonization and dissemination of good quality data between SADC countries, workshops have been organized on ways of improving financial and macroeconomic data and fiscal structures are being analysed in specialized workshops. Follow-up work has been undertaken on a study of the fiscal implications of the establishment of the SADC free-trade area. Background analysis being undertaken by IMF economists includes work on tax and trade regimes in the region and the performance of SADC economies, including ways to improve economic stability and prospects for convergence.

10. International Telecommunication Union

59. The International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) cooperation with SADC is undertaken through the Southern Africa Transport and Communication Commission (SATCC), which is a specialized branch on telecommunications activities. During the period under review, the main areas of cooperation included: assistance to SATCC in fund raising and implementing of telecommunications projects; restructuring SATCC from a technical project activity to a policy and strategy oriented one, restructuring the Southern Africa Telecommunications Administration (SATA) from an informal annual conference to an association of telecommunications operators in Southern Africa operating within the framework of SADC/SATCC protocols on transport, communications and metereology; the creation of the Telecommunications Regulators Association of Southern Africa (TRASA), in line with the SATCC protocols; provision of an ITU expert from 1990 to 1999. Technical assistance to the TRASA secretariat helped the association to start up its activities independently from SATCC.

11. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

60. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) technical cooperation project on market access, trade laws and preferences seeks to increase national capacity of regional countries to negotiate regional and subregional trade arrangements with their developed country counterparts and among themselves. Since 1998, UNCTAD has been collaborating with the Industry and Trade Coordination Division (SITCD) of SADC secretariat in providing technical advice on policy issues in the context of the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade, aimed at establishing a free trade area in the region. UNCTAD has participated in the monthly meetings of the Trade Negotiating Forum providing technical advice on several issues, including tariff dismantling, rules of origin, dispute settlement mechanisms, anti-dumping and, more recently, trade in services. It also contributes to the substantive preparation and follow-up to the meetings, in collaboration with the SITCD secretariat based in Dar es Salaam. During 2000, UNCTAD undertook eight missions and provided technical reports, studies, lectures and advice on numerous aspects of the SADC free trade area.

61. In 2000, two regional seminars for member States of the East African Community (EAC) and SADC were held under phase III of UNCTAD's Coordinated African Programme of Assistance on Services (CAPAS). At the last subregional workshop for SADC countries, CAPAS IV was launched with the intention of assisting African countries to formulate approaches for subregional trade liberalization in services and to strengthen their negotiating capacities in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations. CAPAS IV is supporting SADC integration in services and trade negotiations at multilateral, regional and subregional levels. The second SADC Trade Negotiating Forum on services, under the umbrella of CAPAS, was held in Geneva on 30 November and 1 December 2000. SADC senior officials decided on the service sectors of particular interest for subregional integration, which included tourism, communications, transport, construction and energy-related and financial services. SADC is in the process of seeking funds for the programme.

12. United Nations Development Programme

62. Priorities areas in the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) technical assistance programme with the SADC secretariat and its member countries include the promotion of sustainable human development in the region and the strengthening of the community as it evolves and integrates into the global economy. One outcome has been the launching of the SADC regional human development report series. While the 1999 report focused on the relationship between governance and human development, the 2000 report examines the development challenges of HIV/AIDS and highlights the opportunities anticipated from larger regional markets and joint development and the operation of infrastructural facilities and services.

63. In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP is providing support to the SADC regional office for human rights based in Pretoria. The office has implemented activities with regional partners, such as the Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO), in coordinating training of police chiefs in the region in human rights and law enforcement. Technical assistance is also being provided to SADC countries in developing their governance and human rights programmes and in the establishment of national human rights institutions.

64. UNDP continues to help SADC in the development of policies and programmes to ensure food security in the region as well as the management of data and information on agricultural production and food distribution. It provided technical assistance for the creation of a functional coordinating network for the management of farm animal genetic resources. UNDP has provided assistance to the SADC Coordination Unit based in Maseru, Lesotho, for the study of water resource endowment in the region.

65. In addition to its coordinating role at the country level on HIV/AIDS, UNDP has reoriented its regional project on HIV towards capacity-building for institutions at the regional, national and subnational levels. UNDP is linking the regional project to the special initiative on HIV at headquarters and the subregional resource facilities based in South Africa and Ethiopia. Such linkages will also encourage South-South collaborative efforts, emulating the collaborative initiative on HIV/AIDS between the Governments of Brazil and Botswana on distance learning facilitated by UNDP.

66. UNDP, through its Internet Initiative for Africa, provides financial assistance and advocacy on policy regulations, business and marketing strategies to help establish and enhance collaboration between Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector for the creation of an enabling environment. Through a 50/50 cost-sharing arrangement, UNDP has helped the Governments of Angola, Namibia and Swaziland to establish a national Internet gateway, backbone and points of presence and to develop capacity in this area.

13. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

67. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) actively cooperates with SADC in the field of standards, quality and metrology, essential to the promotion of trade of goods and services among the countries of the region as well as in international trade. UNIDO participated in the sixteenth annual meeting of the SADC Standardisation Quality, Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology Expert Group, held in Maseru, Lesotho, from 22 to 28 April 2001, at which guidelines for a possible SADC/UNIDO cooperation programme for a full fledged technical assistance programme in the field were adopted.

68. In Mozambique, UNIDO is currently implementing an integrated programme in the field of metrology in collaboration with the National Quality Institution. Several meetings and training workshops were held and funds secured for the purchase of the required metrology laboratory equipment. In a related component of the programme, primarily focused on agro-food processing, UNIDO provided training on international quality standards awareness. In addition, five food-processing enterprises are receiving direct support for technological upgrading and the introduction of effective food safety mechanisms.

14. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

69. Since March 2000, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in collaboration with the SADC's Regional Peacekeeping Training

Centre (RPTC) in Harare has implemented an annual UNITAR-RPTC Training Programme to Enhance Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building in Southern Africa.

70. The subregional Training Programme, designed for SADC member States, provides advanced training in conflict analysis, prevention and resolution strategies focusing on the challenges faced by practitioners and decision-makers in their efforts to assess and respond to conflict in the region. It offers a systematic overview of the nature and causes of conflict and provides practical exercises in negotiation and mediation using case studies based on African conflict situations.

71. The participants are selected from middle and senior level professional staff from Foreign Ministries and Defence Ministries of SADC member States, particularly those who have had experience with the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Senior staff from key non-governmental organizations focusing on peacemaking in southern Africa are also included. The first programme was held from 20 to 31 March 2000 and the second from 19 February to 2 March 2001 in Harare, for which the Government of Denmark provided financial support. Fundraising is under way for the next programme to be held in March 2002. This initiative is modelled upon the ongoing UNITAR-International Peace Academy Fellowship Programme on Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy, which is now in its eighth year.

15. United Nations University

72. The United Nations University projects in SADC countries cover issues of peace and conflict resolution, transboundary water management and food and nutrition. A research project on children in armed conflict in Africa is in progress, in cooperation with the Institute of Security Studies in South Africa, with special emphasis on the situation of the girl combatant and the reintegration of demobilized girl combatants into civil society. Another project, in cooperation with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, based in South Africa, aims at strengthening and expanding the African network for conflict and peace studies. Under the United Nations University project on governance of transboundary water resources, a workshop on southern African waters was held in September 2000 in South Africa to address the issue of collaboration in sharing the scarce water resources among riparian States. The United Nations University facilitated the discussion from an academic point of view, sharing findings obtained from similar workshops held in other parts of the world.

16. World Food Programme

73. The World Food Programme (WFP) subregional office in Mozambique provides technical and financial support to SADC countries in the area of vulnerability assessment and the building of disaster management capacity. The WFP procurement office in Harare also buys a significant amount of food in the region, thereby supporting increased food production. WFP provides food aid to some one million people in Angola and to some 70,000 Angolan refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in addition to implementing a large programme of food aid and development projects for over a million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo itself.

17. World Health Organization

74. The World Health Organization (WHO) collaborates with SADC member States by supporting them in areas such as: communicable and non-communicable diseases, reproductive health, development of health systems and emergency and humanitarian actions.

75. HIV/AIDS has been the main priority during the past year. WHO has provided drugs for the treatment of AIDS-related opportunistic infections and kits for AIDS home-based care programmes and has supported HIV surveillance, sexually transmitted diseases control and blood safety programmes in the region. WHO supported the close collaboration between HIV/AIDS and reproductive health programmes in the region, pursuant to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.

76. In Angola, WHO assisted in the development of a national plan of action for reproductive health, conducted a series of courses and gave training for obstetric technicians and maternity nurses to reduce the high maternal mortality rate prevailing in the country, as well as carrying out its Integrated Management of Childhood Illness project. A recent polio outbreak was controlled efficiently and an eradication programme was implemented through successful national immunization campaigns.

18. World Intellectual Property Organization

77. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) continued to provide legal advisory services and technical assistance in all aspects of intellectual property and to implement human resource development programmes for the benefit of SADC countries as well as the SADC secretariat. Officials of the WIPO and SADC secretariats held preliminary discussions on a draft cooperation agreement during the SADC annual Consultative Conference in Swaziland in February 2000. The main thrust of the agreement is the upgrading of legislation related to intellectual property, awareness raising on the benefits of setting up adequate intellectual property systems and improving access to intellectual property databases. WIPO officials also held discussions with the SADC focal points for copyright (Mozambique) and industrial property (United Republic of Tanzania), and agreed on a strategy for strengthening cooperation between WIPO and the SADC region. The draft WIPO/SADC cooperation agreement is currently being discussed by SADC member States.

78. At the request of the SADC secretariat, WIPO provided technical assistance in organizing the SADC Inter-Ministerial Conference on the Place and Role of Culture in SADC Regional Integration, held from 27 to 30 November 2000, in Maputo, Mozambique. A major outcome of the Conference was a call to promote cultural activities as a way of exploiting their capacities to alleviate poverty, generate employment and contribute to economic growth. WIPO's contribution to the expert meeting that preceded the Conference was a paper on the development of markets for the music industry in the SADC region.

19. World Meteorological Organization

79. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has continued to collaborate with SADC countries with a view to enhancing and strengthening the capabilities of their national meteorological and hydrological services resources, assisting them in the formulation of meteorology development programmes and projects and in the mobilization of resources for their implementation.

80. Under a Belgian/WMO trust fund project, the SADC Drought Monitoring Centre based in Harare continued to provide weather and climate advisories to countries in the region. Assistance was also provided to the Southern African Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC) to develop a regional strategy for enhanced meteorological applications in the region. This assistance was provided under the framework of an Institutional Development Fund grant (from the World Bank) to SATCC channelled through the Harare Drought Monitoring Centre. Other activities carried out under the two programmes included training workshops in seasonal forecasting and the organization of Regional Climate Outlook Forums for Southern Africa, whose objective was to develop consensus seasonal rainfall forecasts for the region.

81. Within the framework of WMO's Voluntary Cooperation Programme, several SADC countries received support in terms of expert services, equipment and training. In addition, a project to improve the capacity for national climate data management, and develop drought preparedness and management strategies in three SADC countries is under way. France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are supporting the project.

82. Implementation of the SADC-Hydrological Cycle Observing System project in southern Africa continued satisfactorily, with funding from the European Commission. Since 1996, WMO, in collaboration with the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, has been supporting a major initiative related to the replacement of satellite ground receiving stations at national meteorological and hydrological services in the region.